Research into Evidence-Based Practice Among Practicing Speech-Language Pathologists
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Introduction

- Investigated the gap between evidence-based practice (EBP) and the clinical methods used by practicing speech-language pathologists (SLPs)
- A survey was developed and distributed to practicing SLPs to:
  - Identify how often SLPs consult research
  - Identify barriers and facilitators of information access to EBP
  - Identify barrier and facilitators of implementation of EBP
  - Results will be used to identify potential methods for increasing access to and use of EBP across clinical settings

Background

- SLPs and other healthcare professionals consistently reported difficulty accessing and implementing research-backed information (Nail-Chiwetalu & Bernstein-Ratner, 2007; Zipoli & Kennedy, 2005).
- Nursing disciplines reported information availability, understanding, and value as key barriers (Nail-Chiwetalu & Bernstein-Ratner, 2007).
- 79% of occupational therapists reported consulting colleagues to be the primary way that they accessed EBP (Powell & Case-Smith, 2003).
- Lack of time has been identified as the largest barrier (Coumou & Meijman, 2006).
- Survey completed by SLPs in 2005 (Zipoli & Kennedy 2005)
  - 50% of respondents “disagreed” or “strongly disagreed” that they had the professional time to participate in EBP
  - 17.7% of SLPs drew upon research studies within the last six months
  - More experienced SLPs reported that they were less inclined to access research, relying more on personal experience.
  - Less experienced SLPs held better attitudes toward the use of EBP

Methods

- 205 practicing SLPs
  - Mean of 12.53 years of experience
- 32% Accessed Peer-Reviewed Research in the last 6 Months
- 68% Did Not Access Peer-Reviewed Research in the last 6 Months

- Methods by which SLPs Obtained Peer-Reviewed Research Articles
  - Instructions
    - BLOGS
    - SEMINARS
    - ACCESS THROUGH WORK
    - SIG LISTSERV
    - OPEN ACCESS JOURNALS
    - GOOGLE SCHOLAR
    - FACEBOOK GROUPS
    - ASHA PRACTICE PORTAL
    - CONTINUING EDUCATION
    - ASHA JOURNALS

- Methods by which SLPs Obtained Information about EBP
  - Instructions
    - BLOGS
    - CONSULTING PROFESSIONALS
    - OWN CLINICAL EXPERIENCE
    - FACEBOOK
    - OPEN INTERNET SEARCHES
    - READING RESEARCH ARTICLES
    - SEMINARS/WORKSHOPS
    - CONSULTING COLLEGES
    - CONTINUING EDUCATION COURSES

References